

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 013014
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 R

1RAFTED BY EA/ANP:STAFF:PAP
APPROVED BY EA/ANP:EHURWITZ
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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OGEN, AS, NZ, PP, FJ

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT - AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, PACIFIC
ISLANDS

1. CODEL WOLFF - CODEL WOLFF'S VISITS TO PORT
MORESBY AND CANBERRA WENT WELL. PORT MORESBY REPORTS
THE VISIT WAS USEFUL NOT ONLY TO THE CODEL BUT TO
THE POST AS A FURTHER INDICATION OF US INTEREST IN
PNG AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC. IN CANBERRA THE CODEL
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HAD EXTREMELY USEFUL MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS INVOLVED
IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE AND NARCOTICS. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING - THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
HAS ASKED THAT THE ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING, WHICH
WE WILL HOST THIS YEAR, BE HELD JUNE 29 AND 30 IN
ORDER TO COINCIDE WITH ANDREW PEACOCK'S ATTENDANCE AT

THE UN SPECIAL SESSION OF DISARMAMENT. THE SSOD ENDS JUNE 28. SS TELLS US THAT THE SECRETARY IS FREE BOTH DAYS, AND WE ARE PREPARING AN ACTION MEMO RECOMMENDING THE DATES. MEANWHILE WE HAVE ASKED THE NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY OBVIOUS CONFLICTS ON FOREIGN MINISTER TALBOYS' SCHEDULE (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE).

3. REYNOLDS ALUMINUM INTEREST IN AUSTRALIA AND PAPUA

NEW GUINEA - WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY A REYNOLDS REPRESENTATIVE THAT WITH THE REELECTION OF THE FRASER GOVERNMENT, THE COMPANY IS ACTIVELY MOVING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO ESTABLISH A 400-500 MILLION DOL ALUMINA SMELTER IN NORTHWEST AUSTRALIA. IF THE PROJECT GOES THROUGH, IT WILL BE THE LARGEST SINGLE INPUT OF PRIVATE AMERICAN CAPITAL INTO AUSTRALIA FOR SEVERAL YEARS. MEANWHILE, THE COMPANY SEEMS TO HAVE COOLED SOMEWHAT TOWARD THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING AN ALUMINUM SMELTER IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURARI POWER PROJECT. THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO REYNOLDS IS THAT ELECTRICITY FROM PURARI IS LIKELY TO COST ELEVEN MILS PER KILOWATT HOUR, SOME FIVE MILS MORE THAN THE LEVEL AT WHICH IT WOULD BECOME INTERESTING (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE).

4. THE CANBERRA AGREEMENT ON THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMM. WHO CAN SIGN?- THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAS APPROACHED US (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

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WITH A PROPOSAL THAT SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES IN THE PACIFIC BE ALLOWED TO SIGN THE CANBERRA AGREEMENT WHICH ESTABLISHED THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION. THIS PROPOSAL WAS TABLED AT THE LAST TWO SPC CONFERENCES, AND AUSTRALIA WHICH WAS CHARGED WITH DETERMINING US, UK, AND FRENCH VIEWS NOW HOPES TO HAVE OUR REACTION. THERE ARE TWO CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE SPC: INDEPENDENT NATIONS WHO ARE SIGNATORIES TO THE CANBERRA AGREEMENT, AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES WHO ARE NOT. EVERYONE GETS INVITED TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, BUT ONLY THE NINE SIGNATORIES COMPRISE THE COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS WHERE SUCH ITEMS AS BUDGETS, WORK PROGRAMS, SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS AND OTHER MATTERS ARE DECIDED.

5. USUALLY ONLY SOVEREIGN STATES CAN SIGN TREATIES. HOWEVER, NIUE- AND THE COOK ISLANDS, WITH THEIR SPECIAL LINKS TO NEW ZEALAND ARE NEITHER COMPLETELY SOVEREIGN NOR TERRITORY OF NEW ZEALAND. AND THE COOKS WANT TO SIGN THE CANBERRA AGREEMENT AND SIT ON THE CRPG.

6. THE PROPOSAL TO ALLOW SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TO SIGN THE CANBERRA AGREEMENT HAS BEEN TABLED AT THE LAST 2 SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCES, AND AUSTRALIA CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SURVEYING THE U.S., U.K. AND FRANCE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIONS AND METHODS OF OVERCOMING THEM. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

7. WESTERN SAMOAN AMBASSADOR TO START CREDENTIALS PROCESS - AMBASSADOR TOMA OF WESTERN SAMOA WILL BE IN TOWN ON

JANUARY 25, AND PROTOCOL IS ARRANGING A CALL ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY (OR POSSIBLY THE SECRETARY) FOR HIM TO PRESENT A COPY OF HIS CREDENTIALS. THE PRESENTATION TO THE PRESIDENT WILL COME AT SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LATER DATE. TOMA WILL ALSO WANT TO CALL ON YOU ON EITHER JANUARY 25 OR 26. IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT PRACTICE, A PROTOCOL REPRESENTATIVE AND I WILL MEET TOMA WHEN HE STEPS OFF THE EASTERN SHUTTLE ON HIS FIRST VISIT TO WASHINGTON (UNCLASSIFIED) CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE013014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780026-0268
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780153/aaaabsun.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 52c2cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS, ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3760097
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS REPORT - AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, PACIFIC ISLANDS
TAGS: OGEN, AS, NZ, PP, FJ
To: EA POSTS MELBOURNE MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/52c2cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014